are satisfied about the strength/health of the group. The credit requirement of the group will be assessed based on the crops propose to be cultivated, scale of finance and the area proposed to be brought under cultivation by each member subject to the ceiling in terms of the ratio of savings and loan amount. A Kisan Credit Card (KCC) could be issued to the group for the total loan eligibility and the authorized office bearers of the group will be jointly operating the KCC account.

Re-structuring of Co-operative Banks

†66. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal for restructuring of co-operative banks of the country is under consideration of Government;

(b) whether Government have constituted any task force in this regard;

(c) if so, what are the contents of its Report and what action Government propose to take thereon;

(d) the number of co-operative banks of the country which are sick from financial point of view; and

(e) the details of efforts being made for promoting co-operative sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The basic recommendation of the Task Force is to provide financial assistance to credit co-operative institutions in short term structure to be shared in appropriate ratio between the Government of India and state Governments, subject to certain reforms in the co-operative sector.

(d) As on 31st December, 2004 6 State Co-operative Banks (SCBs) and 140 District Central Co-operative Banks (DCCBs) were not maintaining minimum capital required under Section 11(1) of the Banking Regulation Act (As Applicable to Co-operative Societies) and their net worth is negative. In so far as Urban Co-operative Banks are concerned, 522 banks have fallen into weak category (Grade III) whose Capital to Risk Adequacy Ratio (CRAR) is below 75% of the minimum prescribed level but 50% or above the level required, net Non-Performing Assets (NPA) is 10% or more but

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

less than 15% and who have incurred losses for two years out of the last three years. As many as 189 banks have fallen into sick category (Grade IV) whose CRAR is less than 50% of the prescribed limit and net NPA is 15% or more as on 31st March of the year.

(e) The recommendations of the Task Force have been accepted by the Government in principle for implementation.

Special Economic Package for States

†67. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Government has received requests from various States for providing special economic package on different grounds for their development and to rid them of their miserable economic conditions.

(b) if so, the States which have requested for the same along with the amount sought as special economic package and the amount sanctioned by the Central Government; and

(c) whether the State Government of Himachal Pradesh has also requested for special economic package and if so, when and the amount sought therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) List of States which sought special economic/development packages during financial year 2004-05 along with amounts indicated in their requests is annexed as statement. (*See* below). Government does not approve any special economic package as such. States with special problems/circumstances are provided additional Central Assistance, Special Central Assistance, Special Plan Assistance over and above the annual Central Assistance for State Plans on exceptional bais on merits of each case. ACA/SCA/SPA allocated to these States during 2004-05 by Planning Commission, in the aggregate, is indicated in last column of the Statement.

(c) The States of Himachal Pradesh requested for Special Economic Package in May 31st 2004 for an amount of Rs. 628 crores.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.